



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

November 6, 2006

Mr. David P. Willis
Environmental Manager
PA Turnpike Commission
PO Box 67676
Harrisburg, Pa 17106-7676

Re: Southern Beltway Transportation Project, Final Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Route 22 to Interstate 79, Allegheny and Washington Counties, PA
CEQ # 20060390

Dear Mr. Willis:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, EPA Region III has reviewed the subject document, including your response to our February 24, 2005 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We have no objections to this project, however based on your response to our Environmental Justice comments we suggest further coordination. It is unclear how populations of concern are identified and also the rationale for the selection of the threshold level for determining the at risk population is not provided. Please contact Reggie Harris, Senior Toxicologist/Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator, Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice, at (215) 814-2988 to discuss this further.

Thank you for providing EPA with the opportunity to comment on this project. We look forward to working with you through the duration of this project. Please feel free to contact Barbara Okorn at 215-814-3330 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Arguto", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William Arguto
NEPA Team Leader
Environmental Assessment and Innovation Division